(d) The percentage of disposal of cases during last 3 years is:—

1997	—	66.9%
1998	—	66.8%
1999	—	50.4%

Lifting a ban from going to work in Kuwait and Arab countries

1342. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to lift a ban on its nationals from going to work in Kuwait and other Arab countries;

(b) if so, the grounds on which said ban was imposed;

(c) under what pressure Government propose to lift such a ban; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The ban on deployment of housemaids and male domestics in Kuwait was imposed by the Government in view of the complaints relating to harassment, non-payment/delayed payment of wages etc. The ban on deployment of male domestics has since been lifted. The question of lifting the ban or otherwise on deployment of housemaids in Kuwait can be considered only after Government is assured that such deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment.

Membership of EPF Scheme

1343. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the membership of the EPF Scheme from 1995-96 to 1999-2000, year-wise, for both the exempted and non-exempted categories;

(b) the reasons for decrease in the membership, if any;

(c) the arrear amounts due to default by the employers during the years mentioned above;

(d) the amounts that can be realized for each of the years; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to realized the releasable amounts and those considered to be unrealizable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) The requisite information is as given below:

No. of EPF subscribers (in lakhs)

Year	Exempted sector	Unexempted sector
1995-1996	45.79	147.36
1996-1997	45.36	157.53
1997-1998	44.03	168.16
1998-1999	41.08	190.11
1999-2000	43.60	208.15

(b) Decrease/increase in EPF membership in the exempted sector is attributable to cancellation/grant of exemption from the EPF Scheme.

(c) and (d) The amount of the EPF arrears and the amount immediately realizable during the said years was as under:—

Year	Amount of EPF dues (Rs. in crores)	Amount of PF dues immediately realiseable (Rs. in crores)
1995-1996	421.40	140.15
1996-1997	466.57	185.15
1997-1998	463.97	69.82
1998-1999	573.19	78.92
1999-2000	1058.31	290.55

(e) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under section 7A, 8B, 14, 14B of the EPF & MP Act and where necessary also u/s 406/409 of IPC is taken to recover the dues immediately realizable from the defaulting establishments. As regards dues not immediately realizable the claims are filed before the official liquidator wherever such liquidators have been appointed. Necessary action is also taken for vacation of the stay where realization of PF dues has been stayed by the courts.